

Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs



Engaging Youth in Life & Learning



Why Out-of-School Time Emphasis

Quality “out-of-school time” programs:

- Increase student engagement
- Add relevancy to what’s learned in classroom by building a bridge between “formal” & “informal” learning
- Create supports that are “prevention” rather than “intervention” oriented
- Develop resiliency in youth

Continuous Quality Improvement Process

- Created in response to request from stakeholders statewide
- Designed to be an inclusive process
- Intentional statewide diversity and program representation
- Intentional transparency
- Three step process
 - 1) Standards
 - 2) Assessment tool
 - 3) Professional Development System

Quality Standards Goals

- Develop a common language
- Establish a baseline of quality
- Create a culture of continuous quality improvement
- As a voluntary tool to measure & improve effectiveness
- Further embed “out-of-school” time as critical component of youth development and student success

Targeted Audiences

- Youth and Families
- Program Providers
- Schools and school districts that operate programs
- Funders
- Policymakers

Standards Content

Seven Focus Areas:

- Safe & Healthy Environments
- Positive Relationships
- Intentional Programming
- Safety & Inclusion
- Family, School & Community
- Program Management
- Data & Evaluation

Standards Roll Out

- Events held in Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff
- Attracted broad community representation
- Enthusiastically received
- Exhausted initial printing of documents, necessitating second printing

Presentations Made

- Arizona Department of Education, 21st Century Learning Center's Vision Team
- Avondale Mayor Maria Lopez Rogers
- Arizona School Boards Association Conference
- Arizona League of Cities and Towns
- PVUSD 21st CCLC PD Training for Teachers
- City of Peoria Youth Partner Network
- Arizona Department of Health (Empowerment Program)
- Tucson United Way Youth Development Coalition
- Arizona Parks and Recreation Association

Presentations Scheduled

- Yavapai Cty School Superintendents' Meeting
- AZ Dept of Ed Leading Change Conference
- AZ PTA Conference
- AZ Parks & Recreation Association Conference

Early Successes

- Pima County Joint Technical Education District Governing Board Adoption
- Promotion to other JTED Superintendents
- Tracking of programs adopting standards

Next Steps

- Formal recognition of “out-of-school” time as valuable expanded learning opportunity that it is
- Graduation Rate Task Force adoption of Quality OST Standards
- Make a “out-of-school time” a part of Education Reform Strategy